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reaction on the part of those who will lose by that reform. All these have to be taken into account. We will produce something which will satisfy the tenantry. But if we discuss it too much, these interim evasive measures will proceed apace."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Sir, in spite of the fact that persistent questions are being put on the issue of tenancy reform, and whether the Government will see that tenants are not evicted from their lands, the Hon. Minister did not give a categorical answer. May I ask the Hon. Minister what immediate steps the Government propose to take to see that the landlords do not resort to eviction of their tenants. This is a most important question."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Sir, hon. Members are not really taking into account the difficulty in the matter. They use the vague term 'tenants'. If we make a law or issue an Ordinance, whatever it be, that nobody should be ejected, they will go to courts again saying 'he is not a tenant; he is only a labourer on the land for wages'. Unless we get a nominal list, we will not be able to protect them effectively. But without going so far it is possible to provide a law in such a way that tenants are protected to a reasonable extent and leave the residuary litigation to be faced. We can do that. But as I have already explained, we have to do that either by legislation or by Ordinance. Legislation will be delayed and cannot produce the interim effect that is wanted. Therefore I say it will be done as soon as an Ordinance can be issued."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI:—" In view of the fact that the Hon. the Chief Minister could advise the Governor to prorogue the House to issue an Ordinance for the purpose of levying the tax on petrol, will he also advise the Governor to prorogue this House for the purpose of issuing the Ordinance for this specific purpose?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" I do not mind answering that it will be done as soon as it can reasonably be done. The House cannot be prorogued now in the middle of the budget session."

*Fair price shops in surplus areas.*

*125 *Q.*—SRI G. C. KONDAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the District Collectors have been intimated through a circular or otherwise with regard to the fair price shops being opened even in surplus areas of the State, if it is necessary?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" Yes."

SRI G. C. KONDAYYA:—" Are the Government aware of the fact that in many of the dry taluks of Nellore district fair price shops are not opened by the local officials?"

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" We have given entire discretion to the District Collectors to open fair price shops wherever necessary. If there is any area where there is need for a fair price shop, but one is not opened, it may be brought to the notice of the Government."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO:—" In view of the steep rise in the price of rice even in surplus areas, are the Government prepared immediately to release their stocks for sale through fair price shops? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" I do not agree that there is a steep rise in price. But we are still issuing enough through fair price shops."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH:—" పంచాయితీ బోర్డులు లేని 11-10 a.m.
ఊళ్ళలో fair price shops పెట్టము అని గుంటూరు జిల్లాలో అక్కడ ఉన్న అధికారులు అంటున్నారు. దీన్ని ప్రభుత్వంవారు విచారిస్తారా? ఏమి జవాబు ఇస్తారు?"

SRI T. NAGI REDDI:—" His point is this, Sir. There are some places where the authorities of the Guntur district have not come forward to open fair price shops even if they are requested to do so, when the prices are high. Will the Government consider the question and issue orders to those authorities to open fair price shops immediately in those places? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" We have already issued orders giving discretion to the district authorities to open fair price shops wherever necessary and wherever there is shortage of rice in the open market and I suppose they are exercising their discretion properly. As I have already stated, if there is any case where a fair price shop has not been opened, I am prepared to look into the matter."

SRI M. NARAYANASWAMY:—" Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether the prices have gone up or gone down in the surplus areas of Andhra after the decontrol policy has been introduced? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" In certain areas it has gone down and in certain other areas it has gone up."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH:—" జిల్లా కలెక్టర్లకు instructions ఇచ్చినమాట నిజమే కాని పంచాయితీ బోర్డులు లేకపోతే అటువంటి గ్రామాలలో fair price shop పెట్టుట అవసరము కాదని చెబుతున్నారు. ఈ విషయం విచారిస్తారా? అమలువారిపాలెంలో ఉన్నటువంటి fair price shop తీసివేశారు. దీని విషయంలో ఏమి చెబుతారు అని అడుగుతున్నాను?"

SRI T. NAGI REDDI:—" In some areas like Amalavaripalem the Government have said that they are not going to open fair price shops because there are neither big panchayats nor local boards there. Will the Government consider such cases as this and order the opening of fair price shops? "

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is an individual case. Perhaps the village is a very small one and it is attached to another fair price shop in another village. Anyhow I will look into that specific instance."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" In South Kanara there is a tendency for a rise in the price of rice in the open market. Will the Government take steps to check this by increasing the quantity of ration in the existing fair price shops and also by opening more fair price shops in the districts? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is not possible to increase the scale of ration. But with regard to the opening of more fair price shops, certainly wherever it is necessary, more fair price shops will be opened."

SRI B. KRISHNAMOORTHY ROW :—" May I know whether the Government will continue the relief shops in deficit areas till the next harvest is over, in order to check the increase in price and artificial scarcity? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is the arrangement which we have already made."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that the quantity of rations issued in fair price shops in towns is 7 oz. and in rural parts it is 2 oz.? If so, will the Hon. Minister kindly remove this disparity and make it uniform in all areas? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I think the hon. Member is referring to rice. If so, we are maintaining what we had been giving during the control period. It is not possible at this stage to increase or modify the orders."

SRI G. BAPANAYYA :—" Many newspapers wrote that prices had gone up in Andhra Desa to Rs. 30 a bag. A deputation of mill-owners waited on the Hon. Minister. Are the Government considering to release paddy for fair price shops or to the free market? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am not able to understand the hon. Member's question."

SRI G. BAPANAYYA :—" ఆంధ్ర దేశంలో వివిధ ప్రాంతాలలో ధరలు విపరీతంగా పెరిగినట్లు అన్ని పత్రికలు కూడా వ్రాసినవి. బస్తా ఒకటికి 30, 28, 26 రూపాయలు ఆ విధంగా ధర పెరిగినట్లు తెలుస్తున్నది. కొంతమంది మిల్లు యజమానులు గుడివాడనుంచి వచ్చి ధరలు పెరిగినట్లు కూడా చెప్పారు. ధరలు పెరుగుతున్నాయి గనుక గవర్నమెంటు స్వాధీనములోనున్న స్టాకును ఫ్రీ మార్కెటుకు వదులుతారా ? లేక fair price shop కు రిలీజు చేస్తారా ? "

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" His point is this. In Krishna district the prices are going up and it has appeared in the Press also that in all places prices to-day are about Rs. 26 and Rs. 30 per bag. But there is paddy with the mill-owners. They waited

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in a deputation to permit them to release the stocks that they have to the public. Are the Government considering releasing them to the fair price shops or to the free market? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I deprecate the suggestion persistently made that there is rise in price and steep rise in prices in all areas. I agree there is a rise in price in certain areas but there is a fall in price in certain other areas. I wish the suggestion is not made on the floor of this House that there is a steep rise in price everywhere. As for the release of the stocks with the millers or the wholesalers, I do not think I should divulge at this stage what action we are going to take."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The newspapers have published reports that the prices of paddy have risen from Rs. 12 to Rs. 19 and Rs. 21 in all the areas of the surplus district of Tanjore. Does the Minister consider this not to be a steep rise in price? If not, may I know what he would consider as a steep rise in price? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is a matter of opinion. In my view, there is only a reasonable rise in price in Tanjore district."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :" Even the Hon. the Finance Minister has at least agreed there is some rise in prices, that is, up to Rs. 30 though it may be reasonable in his view. May I know whether he is prepared to open fair price shops wherever prices have risen up to Rs. 30? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is what is exactly being done now. But the suggestion seems to be that we are not opening fair price shops. Wherever necessary, fair price shops are being opened and if more shops are necessary, certainly they will be opened."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" I myself brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Food by means of a telegram the steep rise in prices in Repalle taluk. Now the Hon. Minister has denied a steep rise in prices. May I know what steps he has taken to relieve the poor people of this tragic position and to open fair price shops in Repalle taluk? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" These telegrams are always misleading and I have sent this particular telegram for investigation and I am sure, if necessary, action will be taken for opening fair price shops there."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" With regard to the rise in price, may I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that this rise is due specifically to the fact that the Government are not releasing the surplus stocks from their control in the surplus areas? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I will consider the suggestion."